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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00235 231732Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 MCT-01 AID-05 /103 W
----------001716 231814Z /43
R 231330Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 681
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSVAVEUR
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
COMIDEASTFOR
USS DAVIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 235

USS DAVIS FOR ADMIRAL PACKER

E.O. (1652: GDS
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TAGS: PDIP, PLOS, OCON, DJ, YN, SA, SU, SO, EG
SUBJ: CONFERENCE BEING ORGANIZED OF "ARAB LAKE" COUNTRIES

1. RECENT VISIT TO DJIBOUTI OF YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAQ, WHICH ENDED ON 16 FEBRUARY, CENTERED ON THREE ISSUES: (A) REVIEW OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO MUTUAL INTERESTS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS NAMED

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5 FEBRUARY; (B) PROBLEMS POSED BY SIGNS OF INCREASED SOUTH YEMENI TERRORISM DIRECTED AGAINST DJIBOUTI AND NORTH YEMEN; AND (C) TO DISCUSS MEETING OF RED SEA RIVERAIN STATES TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE AT SANA.

2. THE NAMES OF ALL THE COUNTRIES BEING INVITED ARE NOT AVAILABLE. OBVIOUSLY, ETHIOPIA WILL NOT BE ONE OF THE STATES ATTENDING, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE INVITED. DJIBOUTI WILL ATTEND, BUT CAN BE COUNTED ON TO MAKE MODERATE AND LOCALLY WELL-PUBLICIZED STATEMENTS WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL NOT CAUSE TOO MUCH DISCOMFORT IN ADDIS ABABA.

3. COMMENT: SUCH A MEETING OCCURRING AT THIS TIME WILL DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE TROUBLED HORN OF AFRICA. IF SOMALIA IS INVITED, IT WILL BE SEEN AS NOTHING LESS THAN A SEVERE PROVOCATION BY ETHIOPIA. ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING WILL BE A DELICATE MATTER FOR THE DJIBOUTIANS. HOWEVER, AS FRENCH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBASSY, "WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE DJIBOUTIANS TO HAVE CLOSE TIES WITH THE ARABS; IT WOULD BE UNSEEMLY NOW TO TELL THEM NOT TO ATTEND AN ARAB MEETING ABOUT AN AREA TO WHICH THEY ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED."

4. EMBASSY SANA IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER DETAILS ABOUT PROPOSED MEETING.
CLARKE

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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780224/aaaaatqz.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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SAS ID: 3509853
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFERENCE BEING ORGANIZED OF \"ARAB LAKE\" COUNTRIES
TAGS: PDIP, PLOS, OCON, DJ, YE, SA, SU, SO, EG
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